

nearly 200 attendees. We must act now before another tragedy strikes.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other co-sponsors of this bill to reduce the risk of polyurethane foam fires. Passage of this responsible measure will make American homes and workplaces safer.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Nagorno Karabakh who began their National Freedom Movement seventeen years ago.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for reunification with Armenia. This region had been placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921 under the rule of Stalin, even though 96 percent of the population of Nagorno Karabakh was ethnically Armenian.

The response from Azerbaijan and the former Soviet Union on this request was violent. Military attacks against Nagorno Karabakh followed, resulting in a brutal campaign of aggression largely ignored by the outside world. This did not cause the people of Nagorno Karabakh to falter, for they continued to defend their freedom.

Since declaring independence in 1991, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has grown into an active and prosperous democracy. The first plenary sitting of the 10th session of the NKR National Assembly of the 3rd calling took place on February 9, 2005.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh should be commended for their commitment to democracy and achieving sovereignty in the face of strong opposition from neighboring nations. The United States is honored to share such fundamental values with Nagorno Karabakh as democracy, liberty, and a profound respect for human rights.

The people of the United States stand by our friends in Nagorno Karabakh in hoping for a peaceful resolution to their ongoing conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Just as the people of Nagorno Karabakh saw the necessity of a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan seventeen years ago, so too must a peaceful resolution be achieved with this current conflict.

For a people who have suffered so much in pursuit of self-determination, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh must not abandon hope for a greater future. Through their faultless commitment to democratic values and preservation of human rights, Nagorno Karabakh has made a laudable effort to achieve peace and will soon inspire its Azerbaijani neighbors to return to the peace process.

Like so many who have undergone the pains of oppression, the people of Nagorno Karabakh must rest assured knowing that democracy breeds peace. The United States will continue to promote the cause of our democratic friends in Nagorno Karabakh, not yielding until the goals set forth on February 20, 1988, have been realized in full.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WITNESS SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the countless communities across this Nation that live under a tyranny of fear due to witness intimidation.

For too long some of our bravest citizens who courageously sought to testify in criminal proceedings have been subject to terror at the hands of criminals right here on American soil.

Drug dealers and other criminals have employed a variety of brutal tactics to silence witnesses and intimidate their families, including vandalism, threats, beatings, stabbings, shootings, and even murder.

Witness intimidation is a menacing cancer in our society that, if left untreated, will spread and intensify—undermining the very foundation of our criminal justice system. This cancer is eroding public trust in the government's ability to protect witnesses and demoralizing needed community cooperation to enforce the law.

Our criminal justice system relies on witnesses to provide essential evidence to law enforcement in the administration of justice. We cannot allow street thugs to persecute citizens determined to rescue their communities in the grips of violence and illegal drugs.

In Baltimore City reporting crimes, or testifying in court cases involving drugs or violence, can be extremely dangerous and potentially even deadly. According to Baltimore City's State Attorney Patricia Jessamy, prosecutors throughout Baltimore encounter witnesses or victims on a daily basis who are too terrified to testify.

Specifically, her office estimates "at least 25 percent of non-fatal shooting cases are dismissed due to witness [intimidation] issues and most murder cases are affected on some level." They also report "5 cases where a witness was shot or murdered since September last year."

When cases crumble because of witness intimidation, potentially guilty defendants are free once again to pollute our communities with drugs and victimize the innocent.

Mr. Speaker perhaps nowhere is there an example more clear in illustrating the realities of witness intimidation than in the tragedy that claimed the lives of the Dawson family from my district in East Baltimore City.

In response to Mrs. Dawson's heroic efforts to report intense drug distribution activity in her neighborhood, the Dawson family home was firebombed on October 16, 2002. This insidious act not only took the lives of Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Dawson, but also those of their 5 young children.

Unfortunately, this was not the only serious incident of witness intimidation to surface in Baltimore City.

Baltimore Police Detective Thomas Newman was murdered two years ago due to his testimony in a trial concerning a shooting.

On December 2, 2004, a DVD produced by criminals entitled "Stop Snitching" surfaced in Baltimore. It graphically illustrates the violent drug culture and the code of silence on the streets that can paralyze entire communities

seeking to abide by the law. "Stop Snitching" goes so far as to depict grotesque images of three bullet-ridden, bloody corpses accompanied by the phrase "snitch prevention."

On January 15th 2005, in the North Baltimore community of Harwood, Edna McAber had her home firebombed in apparent retaliation for her work to purge her community of criminal activity.

Regrettably, these aforementioned examples are representative of a growing problem of bold intimidation that send a clear message to the Nation that cannot be overstated—those who would cooperate with police in the pursuit of justice face serious retaliation and possibly execution.

Witness protection programs provide an invaluable resource to law enforcement to combat crime and address witness intimidation. The Witness Security Program (WSP) established in 1970 and administered by the Office of Enforcement Operations at the Department of Justice has successfully carried out its charge. Civilian witnesses testifying in federal cases that deal with organized crime or 3 other serious offenses have been provided with long-term protection and relocation.

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) has done an outstanding job in protecting and relocating witnesses and their families who have been placed in their custody. They can provide them with safety, new identities, housing, employment, medical treatment, and funds to cover the most essential of needs.

While non-federal witnesses can participate in the WSP under certain conditions, the State is asked to reimburse the federal government for the cost of providing such protection.

With record State deficits, local prosecutors are often placed in a challenging position of having to choose between directing their dollars to necessary prosecutorial initiatives such as investigating the illegal distribution of drugs or directing their limited resources into costly, but necessary witnesses protection programs—or, unfortunately, providing no protection at all.

No one wins when our criminal justice system is forced to choose between these two worthwhile ends.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2005. I am proud to have the esteemed senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, reintroduce a companion measure to this bill in the Senate.

This legislation would establish within the USMS a Short-Term State Witness Protection Program tailored to meet the needs of witnesses testifying in State and local criminal trials involving homicide, a serious felony or a serious drug offense.

This measure authorizes \$90 million in competitive grants per year for the next three years so that State and local district attorneys and the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, can provide short-term witness protection to their witnesses. Specifically, prosecutors can use these funds to provide witness protection or pay the cost of protecting their witnesses in the Short-Term Witness Protection Program within the USMS.

We give priority in awarding grants to States with high homicide rates. Given our current fiscal position, it is important to ensure that our dollars are targeted to impact those most in need.

While we can never bring back the Dawson family and all those who carried a heavy burden of fear due to witness intimidation, we can honor their sacrifice by taking the necessary steps today to ensure that future tragedies are prevented. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking that critical step by cosponsoring the Witness Security and Protection Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DR. DOROTHY FEREBEE AS THE NATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, few people have embodied the educational values and progressive nature of Massachusetts better than Dr. Dorothy Ferebee. Born Dorothy Celeste Boulding in Norfolk, Virginia on January 15, 1889, she was a distinguished African-American physician, administrator, and activist. The grandchild of slaves, she forged a path, overcoming countless obstacles, to build a career that would inspire many but could be replicated by none.

Though a native of Virginia, Dr. Ferebee spent the early part of life in Boston. At a young age her family moved north from Norfolk to Boston, Massachusetts where Dorothy and her brother Ruffin grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. The two siblings matured in a nurturing environment surrounded by relatives that served as role models and encouraged scholarship. One of Dorothy's uncles, George Lewis Ruffin, was the first African-American graduate of Harvard Law School and later became Massachusetts' first black judge. Despite the legal influence of her extended family, there were eight attorneys among them; Dorothy's sights were set on medicine. While her friends played with toys, she cared for sick and injured animals, "I would nurse and help the birds that fell out of trees, the dog that lost a fight."

A true daughter of Boston and its surrounding communities, Dr. Ferebee's secondary, undergraduate, and professional education came exclusively from institutions in Massachusetts' Eighth Congressional District. She graduated from Boston English High School with highest honors and went on to attend Simmons College. Upon completion, she applied to medical school and was one of the first black women accepted by Tufts University School of Medicine. Although she excelled, she was among the top five in her class, was elected a member of Zeta Phi, an honorary medical society for women, and was named Class Historian, she was denied access to internships at white hospitals. Never one to give up, she moved to Washington, DC, for an internship at Freedmen's Hospital, the precursor to Howard University and one of the few hospitals that would allow her to continue her education. There, in 1928, she married Claude Thurston Ferebee, a dentist and member of the teaching staff at Howard University.

Dorothy Ferebee had a very long distinguished career in the medical profession. After completing her internship in 1925, she began her own medical practice and became a professor at Howard University School of Medi-

cine. Not one to sit idly, she was also in charge of student health services at Howard University, directed a health care project for Black sharecroppers in Mississippi, and founded organizations that provided health care for Blacks and day care for children of working mothers.

Dr. Ferebee's time in Washington, DC, allowed her to grow professionally, but she never forgot her Massachusetts roots. Toward the end of her career, the connection to her home returned. President John F. Kennedy, former Congressman from the eighth district of Massachusetts, appointed her to the Council for Food for Peace. Though she could have concluded her career when she resigned from Howard University at the age of seventy-nine, she returned to her home state and continued to lecture about preventative medicine at Tufts University. Never digressing from her passion of selflessly helping others, she worked late into her life eventually passing away on September 14, 1980 of congestive heart failure.

Mr. Speaker, though Dr. Dorothy Ferebee's heart stopped working for her at the age of ninety-one, it never failed to work for others. As a physician and activist, Dr. Ferebee fought to break barriers that impeded progress for Blacks and women. The consummate humanitarian, she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the downtrodden. Her efforts carried her to the far corners of the world and her legacy will continue to be felt globally, but she will always have her home and beginnings in Massachusetts' Eighth Congressional District.

HONORING THE WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of National Future Farmers of America Week, which we celebrate next week, to recognize the Winters High School Future Farmers of America Livestock Judging Team as National Champions. Jesse Beckett, Brenden Benson, Matt Hayes, Jacob Thorne, and their coach Kent Benson merit commendation for their high achievement, fine teamwork, and their leadership as members of the Future Farmers of America.

Last May, the team won the California State Champion Livestock Judging title in San Luis Obispo. Team members spent many hours each week studying for the written examination and traveling on weekends to practice evaluating livestock. On October 29, 2004 their team was named the winner of the National Champion Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event at the 77th Annual FFA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. They competed against 43 other State Championship teams from the United States.

At the national contest, Mr. Hayes was the highest individual overall, Mr. Beckett was 7th, Mr. Thorne was 8th, and Mr. Benson 21st. The team placed first on the written exam, 1st in sheep, and 1st in reasons. Mr. Benson and Mr. Thorne each received a perfect "50" score on market lamb reasons. In June the Winters High School FFA Livestock Judging Team will

travel to the Royal Highland Show World Competition in Scotland.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we commend, Jesse Beckett, Brenden Benson, Matt Hayes, Jacob Thorne and coach Kent Benson for their skill and commitment in this endeavor and recognize their outstanding success in achieving their National Championship goal. Let us convey our hopes and best wishes to them as they prepare to represent our nation at the Royal Highland Show World competition a few months hence.

HONORING DR. MARY BELLE MCCORKLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, a fine Tucsonan who has set a remarkable example for us all. This weekend, Mary Belle will receive an award that is much deserved; she will be named the 2004 Woman of the Year by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (2004).

Over the years, Mary Belle has made a significant commitment to education in our community. Her hard work has provided us all with benefits of immeasurable worth. In her early years with the Tucson Unified School District, Mary Belle served as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Principal of both Borton Primary Magnet School and Erickson Elementary School and as a classroom and helping teacher. Her next move led her to become the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction in the Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson, from which she retired in 1993.

Mary Belle then went on to serve on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board for three terms, from 1993 through 2004. She was President of the Board four times and Clerk of the Board twice. In addition to these numerous important jobs, Mary Belle finds the time to mentor administrative interns and teach classes at the University of Phoenix. She has served as an educational consultant for five Arizona school districts, and currently is an Arizona Department of Education Solutions Team Leader. Indeed, Mary Belle has given her talents toward many causes and she has put forth her full effort into each and every one.

A few of Mary Belle's many accomplishments during her tenure on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board stand out in my mind. In an effort to improve student achievement, Mary Belle led the charge to create an all-day kindergarten program and also to add counselors for elementary schools as she had done while at Sunnyside. Furthermore, she mediated a severe labor dispute which could have resulted in a work action.

Among other awards and recognitions Mary Belle has received in the past are the Ray Davies Lifetime Achievement Award from the Educational Enrichment Foundation (2004), the Frances Miller Community Action Award by the Southern Arizona Association for Education of Young Children (2003), the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Presidential Citation (2003), the Friend of the